

## **Testimony on Bill 972 an Act Protecting Minors from the Health Risks Associated with the use of Tanning Devices**

To the Chairs on the Environment Committee, Senator Andrea Stillman, Representative Betsy Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Jane Campo. I live in Fairfield Connecticut. I am testifying in support of Bill 972.

I will be perfectly honest; I wish I wasn't writing this testimony today. I am; what I refer to myself as; is a Victim of the tanning beds. On June 12, 2009 I was diagnosed with Melanoma! This is the most dangerous type of SKIN CANCER of all. I am a mother of three, a wife, a sister and a friend. I am also a daughter of two loving caring parents that were devastated to hear my news of SKIN CANCER. Take a moment to really understand what it is like to hear "it's CANCER, MELANOMA." I'm also a Registered Nurse. Let me tell you, it took me 3 weeks to be able to say "I have cancer!"

I had started tanning back in the 1970s, I was 16. I had no warning of the dangers of these beds at that time. Furthermore, my parents didn't either. I feel I am one of the many that would be worry free if there were warnings of the serious dangers that these machines produce. Knowing myself and my parents, if we just had SOME information, just a HINT that 30 years from then I would have cancer, I WOULD NOT HAVE CANCER!!!! You may be thinking.. a teenager that thinks they have no mortality, okay I will agree, maybe, BUT parents? All parents that are informed have an opportunity to take action. I as a parent will not allow my children to go in the Tanning Salons, as they are called now. I realize when a child is 18 years old; we better have done all we could have to instill good decision making. We do have until then to help make educated decisions on their behalf. Bill 972 will give PARENTS the ability to decide, for their children that are not 18 years old and protect them from harm. Take a step to prevent cancer as we do for cigarettes. Children need our guidance, we are their parents.

At the time of my diagnosis, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) published their finding and DIRECT correlation of Tanning Beds with the diagnosis of MELANOMA. The Tannings Beds ...one time use, increases the risk of getting MELANOMA by 75%! If only my parents had information that they have now. I would be CANCER FREE! Instead I go to get complete body skin exams, every 3 months. It is not something anyone looks forward to. I tell myself this is the only thing I can do to stop the Cancer. If I don't, I may miss a "spot" and will DIE! I have found 2 Melanomas, and 6 "spots" that were of melanocytic cells that had to be further excised. I have had approximately 25 other biopsies over the course of 19 months. I have to admit, I live in fear. Daily I think of cancer! It never really goes away; it just goes to the subconscious. I worry for my children, that they will get the Cancer. They have 10% increase alone because I have the

disease. If they have sunburn, it's sheer anxiety. This CANCER has changed my life, my family and friends lives forever.

I recently had an appointment with an Oncologist. He shook his head, negatively, when I mentioned Tanning Beds. My dermatologist is happy to share her views of the subject. Without her present, I still feel comfortable telling you, she would say "if you want a tan, go get sprayed, it looks natural."

I hope that I have reached one of you, protect your children, listen to the warning my parents and I didn't know. Please pass Bill 972 for the future's sake.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jane Campo